

## WA business community backs daylight saving

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**Robyn Turnor**

June 20, 2008 10:00am

**PERTHNOW EXCLUSIVE: THE WA business community has emphatically backed daylight saving after two summers of a three-year trial.**

The trial, which was introduced in December 2006, has been dogged by controversy as politicians have switched sides, suggested turning the clocks forward at the end of January instead of March and called for an early vote on the issue.

*The Sunday Times* began the campaign to bring daylight saving to WA three years ago and Upper House MPs voted 21-10 in favour of the three-year trial in November 2006.

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A referendum -- the fourth in 33 years -- will be held by September next year to decide whether WA will adopt daylight saving.



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A referendum - the fourth in 33 years - will be held by September next year to decide whether WA will adopt daylight saving.

Perth Branch Manager for Australia's biggest independently owned stockbroker Patersons Securities John Pritchett said introducing daylight saving is a "no brainer" for Perth businesses.

"I think personally from our point of view that when you deal with the Eastern states and the Stock Market, and we have offices in the eastern states, that we deal with the time difference every day.

"The Stock Exchange is based in the eastern states so everything that we work on is over there.

"It's quite important to us and for most of our people because it has meant that instead of having to come in to work at 6am they can come in at 7am."

Mr Pritchett has been surprised by the debate that has ensued since the trial began.

"A little surprised because I tend to think it is a no brainer. From a business point of view when you are three hours out of sync with the rest of the country it does not make life easy.

"From a personal point of view it comes down to lifestyle and I cannot think of anyone in business that would be against it."

WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive James Pearson said in a statement that daylight saving would provide significant social and economic benefits to the state.

"Daylight saving should be embraced in Western Australia as it will allow residents the summer experience that so many other countries and states of Australia have long enjoyed.

"There are also important benefits for business. Daylight saving will eliminate the frustrations and inconvenience of being too far out of line with customers, suppliers, and with the business and government network in the eastern states.

"CCI believes the current three-year trial, of which only two years has been completed, should be allowed to run its full course before the community makes any decision on the future of daylight saving."

Member for Kalgoorlie Matt Birney, who co-sponsored the Daylight Saving Bill with Independent John D'Orazio, has been surprised by the intensity of the debate and believes next year's referendum will be close.

Mr Birney has raised concerns about the late sunrises in March but still supports the introduction of daylight saving.

National Party Leader Brendon Grylls, who initially supported the Bill but is now not in favour of

daylight saving, said 66,000 people had signed a petition calling for the referendum to be held this year.

He said the anger mainly came from people who had voted no at three previous referendums.

Mr Grylls said he wished the people of WA would express as much interest in more important issues such as health and education.

Dairy farmer Ros Hoskins, who lives in Mardella near Serpentine south-east of Perth, was so against daylight saving that her farm aborted the new time after only a few days and lived an hour behind the rest of the state.

She said keeping to the new times was not worth the suffering her cows would have endured from being milked during the hotter part of the day.

Families were equally divided over the issue of whether they could get their children to sleep with the extended daylight hours.

Jo and Tony Roshkov of Roleystone said it made no difference to their three children Ben, 6, Matthew, 4 and Caitlyn, 1.

A few streets away Helen and Dave Nolan, also of Roleystone, said it was a nightmare getting their boys Nicholas, 6, and Oliver, 4, to sleep before 9pm.

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- [Natural time: Dairy farmer boycotted daylight saving](#)
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## **Have Your Say**

### **Latest Comments:**

@ Bill of Esperance - I guess if I'd like to have safer streets, better infrastructure, better politicians I should go elsewhere as well. I have been out of Perth for a few years - as have a lot of posters on the blog. Now are you interested in others opinions or will you just say 'if you don't like it, leave.'

*Posted by: **Pathetic of Forrestfield** 11:16pm July 03, 2008*

If you want daylight saving head East, been running there for years.. They need the extra hour to make up for the hours of daylight they don't get.... As for Northern Europe, they are in darkness for half the year ( as well as freezing) so they arn't going to compalin about daylight What do we do if the Referendum is actually a yes this time, are we going to have another in a couple of years to push the No vote across I don't recall getting a vote at the referendum for Federalism, maybe we can do that one again as well And not to mention the Holy Grail of all Referendums.... The Great Australian Republic... Let's lose the Queen just in case they didn't really mean NO last time As for all the people that describe Perth and WA as Dullsville, backward or lacking excitement I guess it depends what stage of your life that you are at ( and how many friends you have ) I suggest you go elsewhere for a few years and see if you appriciate the quiet beauty of West Australia a little more when you return

*Posted by: **Bill of Esperance** 9:11pm July 03, 2008*

It happens to be the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere at the moment. Even without daylight saving, it gets dark around 10pm. Now there's 500million people living in Europe and they seem to cope alright with it so I can't for the life of me understand what the fuss is about. They even opt for DST on top of that! DST does not change the climate, nor does it add to the number of hours of daylight. The Earth's trajectory around the sun does that. If you are worried about UV then slip, slop, and slap. A lot of the comments on this topic should be moved to the blog 'Whats wrong with Perth'. Insular and uninformed.

*Posted by: **Pathetic of Forrestfield** 6:01am July 03, 2008*

I think everyone should work the hours they want, I know heaps of people who work in govt depts who use flexi time and they love it. They start earlier in Summer and later in Winter and work from home etc. More businesses will have to accomodate the rising wishes of their employees if they want to stay competative in todays market. Why should we be driven by the East anyway?

*Posted by: **Marlene from Mullaloo of On The Beach** 1:57pm July 02, 2008*